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MINT of U. S.
PHILADELPHIA.
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JUL 9 1896

J. A. Williamson
New York
July 8th 1896

Submit questions about Coins
and the Mints, for publication.

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JUL -9 1896

18 EAST 48TH STREET.

U. S. MINT, PHILA.

New York July 8th 1896
The Superintendent of the
Mint of the United States
at Philadelphia

Dear Sir If not inconsistent
with your duty will you
kindly send me such
laws, rules, or regulations
concerning the mint as
may be published for
information of the people
I especially want to find
the correct answers
to the enclosed list
of inquiries, which only
state

to the fineness and weight
of coins

Thanking you in advance
I am very respectfully

J. A. Williamson

Of what degree of fineness
 is "Fine Silver" and "Fine Gold"
 + in the sense in which those
 words are used at the Mint?

Are Gold and Silver Coins
 heavier, by reason of alloy
 used, than the designated
 number of grains of the
 metals which are by virtue
 of law, named as the
 quantity to constitute the
 several coins?

Is the alloy used in gold coins
 copper only? What is the relation
 + weight of the alloy to the
 weight of the coin?

(1)
No. 19. TREASURY DEPARTMENT

"Fine Silver" and "Fine Gold"
 Bars may be approved when
 they have a fineness of $\frac{992}{1000}$
 Silver and gold respectively.
 (See Sec 2 Art 7 & 12 Regulations)
 But ^{the fact} the Trade calls for,
 and the Mint furnishes
 bars $\frac{999}{1000}$ ^{its} fine. That
 is to say within ~~one~~ $\frac{1}{100}$ of
 one per cent of absolute purity.
 (See Sec 2 Art 7 & 12 Regulations)

No. 19. TREASURY DEPARTMENT

Question 3.

The alloy in gold coins
(silver as well) is exclusively
Copper. 90 parts pure
gold (or silver), and 10
parts of copper in 100.

This alloy is known as
"Standard" and the weight
prescribed by law ^{for coins} is stated
to be in such Standard Metal.
Thus a ^{10 dollar} gold ~~dollar~~ piece

No. 19. TREASURY DEPARTMENT

Must weigh 258 grains
 - of which $232\frac{2}{10}$ grains
 in gold - $25\frac{8}{10}$ "
 in Copper. 258 " Total.

Similarly with silver.

The Dollar weighs $412\frac{1}{2}$ grs
 of which silver $371\frac{1}{4}$ grains
 and Copper $41\frac{1}{4}$ $412\frac{1}{2}$ "

The value in both cases
 is based on the precious metal

No. 19. TREASURY DEPARTMENT

Contains therein

And the alloy is only added
for hardening purposes —
purely a mechanical one.

Section 2 may now be

amended. The weights

designated by law for the
coins being given in Standard

(or alloyed) metals, the

coins are not heavier than
the designated number of grams

NARA RG104, Entry 1, Box 194

[Letter One:]

[Abstract:] Submits questions about coinage and the metals, for publication.

18 East 48th Street.

New York

July 8, 1896

The Superintendent of the Mint of the United States at Philadelphia

Dear Sir

If not inconsistent with your duty will you kindly send me such laws, rules, or regulations concerning the Mint as may be published for information of the people I especially want to find the correct answers to the enclosed list of inquires, which only to the fineness and weight of coins.

Thanking you in advance I am very respectfully,

J.A. Williamson

[Letter Two:]

Of what degree of fineness in "fine silver" and "fine gold" in the sense in which those words are used at the Mint are gold and silver coins heavier, by reason of alloy used, than the designated number of grains of the metals which are by virtue of law, named as the quantity to constitute the several coins?

Is the alloy used in gold coins copper alloy? What is the relative weight of the alloy to the weight of the coin?

[Letter Three:]

No. 19. Treasury Department

“Fine Silver” and “Fine Gold” bars may be approved when they have a fineness of 992/1000. Silver and gold respectively (see sec. 2 Act 7 of 12 Regulations) But the fact the trade calls for, and the mint furnishes bars 999/1000 grs fine. That is to say within 1/100 of one per cent of absolute purity.

Question 3

The alloy in gold coins (silver as well) is exclusively copper. 90 parts pure gold (or silver) and 10 parts of copper in 100. This alloy is known as “standard” and the weight prescribed by law for coins is stated to be in such standard metal. Thus a 10 dollar gold ~~dollar~~ piece must weight 258 grains – of which 232. 2/10 grains in gold – 25 8/10 “ in copper. 258 “ Total.

Similarly with silver.

The dollar weighs 412 ½ grs of which silver 371 ¼ grain, and copper 41 1/4 , 412 ½ “. The value in both cases is based on the precious metal contained therein and the alloy is only added for hardening purposes – purely mechanical.

Question 2 may now be answered. The weights designated by law for its coins being given in standard (or alloyed) metal, the coins are not “heavier than the designated number of grains” &c.